

21 Cornhill Boston,
January 12. 1858.

Dear friend Webb.

It seems unusually long since I wrote to you, and whether now I shall be sufficiently free from interruptions, and other calls, to mention them all, or say what I wish to say about any of them, is very uncertain. An excellent friend, both of the cause & of ourselves ^{here} personally, sits near me, talking on the state of the times & the character of certain leading men in the town where he lives, and I write to you, & listen to him (with an occasional reply), all at the same time, - a task to which my poor faculties never were equal. —

There came two callers, on both of whom I had to attend, - followed by several more, among the whole of whom over 2 hours have been used up; - but you doubtless know how this thing is. — Now, Garrison sits near me, and I say "I am writing a note to Richard Webb," have you any word for him?" - "Yes" says he - "I wish him a Happy New Year, (laughing) - give him my best love" - and then adds, soliloquizing, "I ought to write him, now & then, & do somethin' for the Advocate," - I add, "Oh, pray do; I don't know what would please & help Webb more." Then he asks ^{is} how the Advocate ~~is~~ sustaining itself, and I have the pleasure of telling him of Miss Estlin's donation of £20., mentioned in your note received by me this morning, - via New York.

My principal reason for writing now is to notify you that I have today sent to the Steamship Niagara, for Liverpool, to sail tomorrow, the "Bell" Box, addressed to you, in care of S. R. Gruber Liverpool in accordance with freight-receipt herewith enclosed. The box goes earlier than usual. Mr. Chapman does not propose to publish, this year, the Bazaar Report in a separate paper or pamphlet, ^{but} ~~and~~ will hereafter, either by mail or package, forward copies of the Standard or Liberator containing it. The box contains, principally, two ~~three~~ works - 1. The "Liberty Bell". 2. "Stroud's Sketch of the Slave Laws", in an abridged but still pretty extended form. There are also some copies of H. Greeley's "History of the Struggle for the Extension or Restriction of Slavery", which you will distribute as you judge best. There are also a few other tracts & publications. - Mr. Garrison sends you a volume, in token of his regard. I hope the box will reach you safely, and without undue meddling or grievous taxation by the Customhouse Officers. Please let me hear of its fate. —

Our Bazaar closed the evening of Dec. 26. having received the gross amount of \$3500., which was \$500. to \$1000. more than the most sanguine of us had counted upon. Still it is \$1800. below what it was last

year. — In these circumstances, and with the certainty of diminished receipts from other quarters, our Executive Com^{tee} have felt constrained to reduce the expenses of the Standard, and have voted to discontinue

the editorship of Oliver Johnson at the expiration of the Society's year, vizt. on the 1st of May. — This has been a great disappoint-

ment to Mr. Johnson & to numbers of his friends, but it was a ~~sad~~ ^(this is private correspondence, you know) necessity. Penn-

Sylvania was bound to contribute \$3000.

annually to the treasury of the American Anti-Slavery Society; if it had continued to do that, or even \$2500., Johnson could have been retained. But their ~~subsequent~~ payment have fallen off very greatly, (I can't name the exact deficiency, but I believe it to be from \$1000. to \$1500.), & ^{they} "notify^{us}" that, next year, they will be able to do even less. — Is then the Ex. Com.

to blame, for striving to bring its expenditures within the limit of its means? I know not, yet, strange to say, we are blamed, and mainly in Pennsylvania, on ^{acc't. of} whose deficiency mainly, almost solely, this step is rendered necessary.

— We shall all increase our efforts to hold up the Standard, and not let it flag, or suffer in value or interest by the loss of O. Johnson's services, which really ^{will be} ~~are~~ a great loss. He

is a very competent editor, and a most excellent man. Still, he has not done all for the Standard that it was hoped and believed he would do. — Our Committee will go on, retrenching their expenditures as wisely & carefully as possible, — but still, retrenching, because it is their duty to do so.

I am sorry to tell you we saw nothing of the Delta Rue box at the Fair. It was often inquired for, & much missed. The ship which brings it arrived here day before yesterday, Jan. 24. We shall get it, not till next week, as the sailing ships do ^{begin to} not discharge until they have lain in port a week, to enable all consignees to enter their goods. But the delay, I hope expect, will eventuate well for our treasurer. The paper comes in time to secure a good market, and will doubtless sell for its full value. There will probably be an after Fair at which we may sell not only the paper, but perhaps other articles remaining unsold from the Bazaar.

The January "Advocate" came yesterday. — Really was surprised to see my name & letter stamp in the face. I am very happy you like my letters, & think them worth the room they take. Marion told me he was glad to see that I wrote from time to time. I told him, I felt cheap every time I said one of them, and wished it were a great deal better.

Garrison was saying yesterday, in our Committee meeting, that he hoped you would not take the Silence of the Liberator & Standard, in reference to F. Douglass's vituperative attack upon you, as evidence of indifference in the case. - You are doubtless aware that it was resolved here, some time since, to take no notice of Douglass whatever in any of our papers or meetings, but leave him wholly to the infamy or glory, as it may be, which shall crown his hypocrisy, his lying, and his base ingratitude. - Measures are taking here, however, to furnish you with documentary evidence and support in regard to the mortgage case, and it will be forthcoming in due time, and I doubt not in such a shape as will fully justify your statements. Such at least is the belief of those here, who have given any attention to the matter, - which I ^{to any extent} cannot say I have done. - After this is done, and you have got it fairly out of the way, Garrison advises that thenceforward you never name Douglass or his female satellite in the Advocate. - As G. left the office, just now, he lifted his hat, and said, "Tell him I left my hat to him across the water."

I cannot wonder at any success which the said female satellite has among English people, &c.

When I look around and see the brazen-faced impostors and swindlers who infest our cause here, and obtain not only a subsistence, but very considerable sums of money, by their audacious and cool stories, many of them without the shadow of truth to support them. First, there is Delia Webster. She pulls the "priest's" string which Julia Griffiths is so artfully working at in G. Britain. She uses the cant language, the technical phrases, of the sects, - pulls a long face, - and passes for a very religious woman. She is a selfish, scheming, & unscrupulous person, without refinement or reliable principle, - in no sense a lady. But she has deceived many - clergymen and others - and has obtained considerable sums towards saving her \$40,000 estate in Kentucky (?) from the clutches of her persecutors. - ^{then} there are ~~the~~ quite a number of unmitigated scamps about, personating fugitive slaves, African priates, &c. &c. - all very religious!, so they pretend, while they tell the most enormous lies, and disgust sensible men by their improbable narratives. Their priest dodge secures them the favour of many ministers, opens the doors of churches and of pulpits, - all which being done, money contributions are certain to come in, from the large, uninformed, well-disciplined class who believe all the minister says, regard him as

their authority and law, and who do not dare to go contrary to his instructions. — It is a great disgrace, to both countries, that they allow these abominable impostures to flourish, when done in the name of religion, or in any name. A very little manly firmness suffices to bring the most of them to shame, and to expose their fraudulent courses. As to Douglass, I consider him no better than a swindler. I consider that he is getting money, or false pretences. His story of his religious experiences and character is, in my belief, a mere fetch and pretence, a cover for mercenary purposes; and he uses falsehood himself, and allows & encourages his subalterns to do the same, in order to break down those who are fearlessly contending with Slavery face to face, and who mean to strip the disguise, thin or otherwise, from every wolf in sheep's clothing which croptes their path, though he come in priestly garb, or arrayed even as an angel of light. — All our wise ones say, Avoid controversy with these bad subjects, for it is what they covet, & get notoriety on; but lose no opportunity, when it can be effectually done, to expose their tricks, their dishonesty, & fraud.

I received to-day letter from Eliza Wigham and Mary Estlin. Am I not honoured in two such correspondents? Both letters mention the very sudden death of Mrs. Prichard, Mary Estlin's

anit, & only remaining member of the Estlin family, save one I believe who is very infirm. Mary feels the bereavement very deeply, and seems to be even more solitary than before.

The meutions, - what E. Wigham says nothing of, and what ^{only} an uncertain rumour of had reached us before, - that E. Wigham's father has been a very heavy loser, & perhaps quite impoverished as to property, by the failure of the Western Bank of Scotland. This is a sad confirmation of what we had before put away as ~~a rumour~~ which might prove quite unfounded. Do you let me know whether his losses are as heavy, his case as hard a one, as it now appears.

I shall hope soon to hear from you about Gilroy's note - what destination to give it. I suggest it being sent to Gay, or some other Newfath friend, might at least occasionally see Gilroy.

You ^{have} received, I suppose, my request to send the "Advocate" to Susan B. Anthony, Rochester, N.Y. - & to diminish the number of papers sent to me by one, owing to the discontinuance of J. Wilson Jr.

The newspapers will give you particulars of a fracas in the House of Representatives, last week. They tried an all-night session, the Border Ruffian party aiming to tire out the Republicans & Douglas Democrats, & carry their point with the Lecompton Constitution. About 2 o'clock A.M. H. S. Elliott of S. Carolina, (Preston Brooks's right hand man when he made his assassin-attack on Charles Sumner) called Grow of Penn^a (a Democrat & Republican) a "dam

Black Republican puppy", and attempted to throttle him - twice Grow knocked his hand up - again Keitt collared him, when Grow by a very powerful blow on Keitt's left ear knocked him at full length on the floor, the friends of both ran together, and there was a "free fight" just before the Clerk's desk for some minutes, when it was stopped. Keitt was a good deal intoxicated. Yesterday he made a very humble apology to the House, taking all the blame to himself.

- If they must fight, I rejoice that Pennsylvania knocked South Carolina down. - But what a "heavenly Union" we have, to be sure, with these dear Southern brethren of ours. They are loudly threatening disunion, if Kansas is not admitted as a Slave State, or if she is admitted as a Free State, and many, I fear, will be frightened with their empty threats. But they will ~~not now~~ secede; they know when they are well off, and that it would be suicide to themselves, and the speedy end of Slavery to go out of the Union. - Mr. Chamber calls ~~for~~ for our plan of effecting Disunion, and it troubles that he can't understand it. The plan is, to proclaim God's truth, & make villains as uneasy as possible in their villainy, and the disunion will be hastened on, quite as fast as men can get themselves ready for it. The Union never hung by so slender a thread as now, and it is weakening every day, I am confident.

[Confidential.]

I hardly dare venture on one topic, which still however I feel I must name; and yet it must be in entire confidence - quite private. Perhaps you may have heard of it. - Mrs. Chapman thinks the Bazaar worn out, cumbersome, effete, clumsy, a drag & fetter on the Cause rather than a help. She has decreed its abolition, I believe. She has great plans of something better in its place which are yet to be unfolded, but which I but faintly understand. - Laborious as we are in the Bazaar, there are few who agree with her, in the policy of dispensing with it. But its downfall is decreed, as I have said, and you will look to see the better thing shape itself into something great & tangible. But do not spread the rumour, on the strength of a